

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

LISTING OF CLAIMS:

Claims 1-54. (Canceled)

55. (currently amended) A method for treating an article with a mollusc repellent composition which method comprises applying to the surface of said article, a mollusc repellent composition comprising an effective amount of a substantially insoluble metal oxalate and a suitable carrier therefor,

wherein the article is above ground or in the soil, and wherein the mollusc is ~~from~~ the family ~~Agriolimidae or Helicidae~~ Deroceras spp., Helix spp., or Cernuella spp.

56. (previously presented) The method of claim 55, wherein the metal of the metal oxalate is a transition metal or a transition metal in combination with a non-transition metal.

57. (previously presented) The method of claim 55, wherein the metal is iron(II) or iron(III), aluminum, zinc or copper.

58. (previously presented) The method of claim 55, wherein the metal oxalate is ferric potassium oxalate or copper oxalate.

59. (previously presented) The method of claim 55, wherein the amount of metal oxalate is between 2% to 100% by weight of the total composition.

60. (previously presented) The method of claim 59, wherein the amount of metal oxalate is between 2% to 10% by weight of the total composition.

61. (previously presented) The method of claim 55, wherein the metal oxalate is present as an aqueous suspension.

62. (previously presented) The method of claim 55, wherein the carrier comprises a binder to facilitate the adhesion of the metal oxalate onto the surface of an article to be treated.

63. (previously presented) The method of claim 62, wherein the binder comprises between 0.1% and 100% by weight of the carrier.

64. (previously presented) The method of claim 55, wherein the mollusc repellent composition further comprises a fungicide.

65. (previously presented) The method of claim 64, wherein the fungicide comprises about 0.05 % to 1.0 % by weight of the total composition.

66. (previously presented) The method of claim 55, wherein the composition further comprises a diluent to enable even coverage of the article to which the repellent is to be applied.

67. (previously presented) The method of claim 66, wherein the diluent comprises between about 0 % to 95 % by weight of the total composition.

68. (previously presented) The method of claim 55, wherein the composition further comprises a growth hormone.

69. (previously presented) The method of claim 68, wherein the growth hormone is a seaweed extract.

70. (previously presented) The method of claim 68, wherein the growth hormone comprises between 0.05 % and 1 % by weight of the total composition.

71. (previously presented) The method of claim 55, wherein the composition comprises a metal oxalate in combination with at least one other mollusc repellent.

72. (previously presented) The method of claim 55, wherein the article to be treated is an animate or an inanimate article.

73. (previously presented) The method of claim 56, wherein the animate article is a seed having the potential to produce at least one root, and a growth hormone is readily available to the at least one root as it emerges from the seed.

74. (previously presented) The method of claim 72, wherein the inanimate article is a weed mats, an outlet pipe for cooling systems, a hull of a ship, a driveways of a home, or a grow-bag.

75. (previously presented) The method of claim 55, wherein the form of the repellent is a solid, a suspension, or a coating composition.

76. (canceled)

77. (currently amended) The mollusc repellent composition of claim ~~76~~ 89, wherein the metal of the metal oxalate is a transition metal or a transition metal in combination with a non-transition metal.

78. (currently amended) The mollusc repellent composition of claim ~~76~~ 89, wherein the metal is iron(II) or iron(III), aluminum, zinc or copper.

79. (currently amended) The mollusc repellent composition of claim ~~55~~ 89, wherein the metal oxalate is ferric potassium oxalate or copper oxalate.

80. (currently amended) The mollusc repellent composition of claim ~~76~~ 89, wherein the amount of metal oxalate is between 2% to 100% by weight of the total composition.

81. (previously presented) The mollusc repellent composition of claim 80, wherein the amount of metal oxalate is between 2% to 10% by weight of the total composition.

82. (currently amended) The mollusc repellent composition of claim ~~76~~ 89, wherein the metal oxalate is present as an aqueous suspension.

83. (currently amended) The mollusc repellent composition of claim ~~76~~ 89, wherein the carrier comprises a binder to facilitate the adhesion of the metal oxalate onto the surface of an article to be treated.

84. (previously presented) The mollusc repellent composition of claim 83, wherein the binder comprises between 0.1 % and 100% by weight of the carrier.

85. (currently amended) The mollusc repellent composition of claim ~~76~~ 89, further comprising a fungicide.

86. (previously presented) The mollusc repellent composition of claim 85, wherein the fungicide comprises about 0.05 % to 1.0 % by weight of the total composition.

87. (currently amended) The mollusc repellent composition of claim ~~76~~ 89, wherein the composition further comprises a diluent to enable even coverage of the article to which the repellent is to be applied.

88. (previously presented) The mollusc repellent composition of claim 87, wherein the diluent comprises between about 0% to 95 % by weight of the total composition.

89. (currently amended) ~~The A~~ mollusc repellent composition of claim ~~76~~, ~~wherein the composition further comprises~~ comprising an effective amount of a substantially insoluble metal oxalate, a suitable carrier therefor, and a growth hormone.

90. (previously presented) The mollusc repellent composition of claim 89, wherein the growth hormone is a seaweed extract.

91. (previously presented) The mollusc repellent composition of claim 89, wherein the growth hormone comprises between 0.05% and 1% by weight of the total composition.

92. (currently amended) The mollusc repellent composition of claim ~~76~~ 89, wherein the composition comprises a metal oxalate in combination with at least one other mollusc repellent.

93. (currently amended) The mollusc repellent composition of claim ~~76~~ 89, wherein said composition is in the form of coating composition.

94. (currently amended) The mollusc repellent composition of claim ~~76~~ 89, wherein said composition is in the form of a paint.

95. (currently amended) ~~The A mollusc repellent composition of claim 94,~~
comprising an effective amount of a substantially insoluble metal oxalate and a suitable carrier therefor, wherein the composition is in the form of a paint and wherein the carrier

is an aqueous surfactant solution, an aqueous polyvinyl acetate solution, or an oil-based paint.

96. (Withdrawn) A mollusc repellent composition suitable for sustainable agricultural purposes comprising:

- (i) an effective amount of an aqueous solution of oxalic acid or soluble metal oxalate; and
- (ii) an effective amount of an aqueous solution of a soluble metal salt,

whereby sequential application of the two solutions, in either order, results in the *in.situ* preparation of a substantially insoluble metal oxalate as an aqueous suspension.